

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/024,734

Examiner

CUONG H. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

PETERSON ET AL.

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/22/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 17-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 05/06/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3661

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the interview on 5/06/2005.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with 2 sheets of formal drawings which are acceptable by the examiner.

Examiner's amendment:

4. The authorization for this amendment was given by Mr. Kent E. Genin (Register # 37,834) on 5/06/2005. Should the changes be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been agreed to amend as follows:

- Claims 11-16 are cancelled.

Response to Arguments

5. With respect to the rejections of pending claims 11-16 under U.S.C § 103(a), applicants agree to cancel these claims. With respect to the rejections of pending claim 1 under U.S.C § 103(a), applicants point-out that the subject matter of this claim is further narrower by claiming a system with distinguished means: "means for determining...", "means for establishing...", "means for generating and storing...", this reason has been fully considered and is persuasive. Therefore, the previous rejections of pending claims 1-20 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter and Reason for Allowance

6. The closest available prior art of Hogan et al., Farris et al. (US Pat. 6,504,907), Pruett et al. (US 5,953,389), and Crawford; however, as in claims 1 comprising three means-plus-function elements, these references fail to teach or suggest a system for generating billing and computer usage time information for unrelated host computer networks subscribing to security services from a remotely located security server, comprising:

- means for determining if a remotely located computer is authorized to access one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks (see the specification: ref. 22 of Fig. 1, and page 9, paragraph 0009; NAS server 30, and service bureau 22 in pp.5-6 in paragraphs 0014-0015).
- means for establishing a connection between the remotely located computer user and one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks (see the specification: the NAS 30 and its control of the communication server 20 once the NAS has authenticated the user in FIG. 1, p.3 paragraph 0009, and pp.5-6, paragraph 0015); and
- means for generating and storing a user log (see the specification: the NAS 30 of Fig. 1, and the functionality described in Fig. 2 at 56 and on pp.5-6 in paragraphs 0015-0016).

Therefore, the invention is allowable over the prior arts for being directed to a combination of claimed specific elements as indicated above.


Conclusion

7. Claims 1-10, and 17-20 are patentable; claims 17-20 are renumbered as 11-14.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax number where this application is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CUONG H. NGUYEN
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Art Unit 3661